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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,339	02/21/2001	Sadaji Tsuge	P107336-00018	1063

7590 01/07/2003

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EXAMINER

MUTSCHLER, BRIAN L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1753	

DATE MAILED: 01/07/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/788,339	TSUGE, SADAJI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Brian L. Mutschler	1753

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 16 December 2002 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

(a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

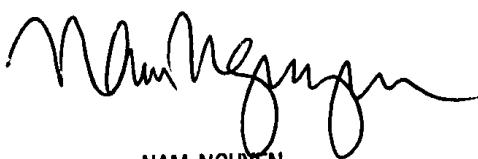
NOTE: _____.
 3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
 4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
 6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
 7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.
 Claim(s) objected to: _____.
 Claim(s) rejected: 1-8.
 Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.
 8. The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
 10. Other: _____

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: The instant claims are not distinguished over the prior art of record. Encapsulating is a known method for making solar cell modules using solar cells. The novelty of the instant invention lies in the structure of the solar cell itself. Asano et al. teach a solar cell having a crystalline substrate and an amorphous semiconductor layer, wherein a semiconductor junction is formed between the substrate and the semiconductor layer. Regarding the position of the substrate and semiconductor layer, Asano et al. teach that the grid electrode, i.e., the light-incident side, can be fabricated on either side of semiconductor junction. Furthermore, the module of Hanoka et al. is capable of allowing light to enter from either side. It is the Examiner's position that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use various configurations of crystalline solar cell elements within the module of Hanoka et al. because the module of Hanoka et al. "is used to protect the brittle [crystalline] silicon solar cells from breakage and to help seal these cells into the overall module structure" (US 6,353,042, col. 1, lines 31-35).

Regarding claim 6, since the solar cell element is a single crystalline silicon solar cell element, one side of the substrate must be on the light incident side because the single crystal silicon substrate comprises the entire substrate. Matsushita et al. further disclose that single crystalline, crystalline and amorphous silicon solar cell elements may also be equivalently used, as well as composites comprising more than one type of material.



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